

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
January 27, 2014

Attending: Voting Members:, Linda Cohen, Mary Dummer, Susan Kagan-Lange, Diane Lapon, Miguel Lessing, Sr. Alice McCourt, Bill Murphy, John Schuler, and Joellen Toussaint.

Associate Members: Mary Bowers, Jack Cross, Judy Keefe, Joanne Kilsdonk, Penny Lawrence, Shirley Quinn, Director of Senior Services Gayle Thieme.

Absent: Sandra Budson, Stanley Hodges, Sheila Nugent, Dianne Sullivan, Richard TenEyck, Eleanor Sullivan, and Harriet Warshaw.

John Schuler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. There were no requests for Citizen Speak.

Minutes of the November 18, 2013 were unanimously approved with minor corrections, after a motion by Linda Cohen and a second from Mary Dummer. The minutes of the December 11, 2013 meetings were also unanimously accepted as amended after a motion by Susan K. Lange and seconded by Bill Murphy.

Staff reports elicited discussions on the need for space for new staff to run the in-house COA bus service should the service be approved, the concerns about low attendance to some COA programs and on what staff reports should focus on.

Gayle Thieme went on to describe the proposed agreement with Publishing Services for COA's newsletter. The new contract will provide a significantly improved publication (starting with the May-June edition) with sixteen pages instead of the current twelve and including four full color pages (versus none now) at no change in potential cost to COA (the publication is paid by the vendor who funds it through advertising). The agreement was unanimously accepted after a motion by Joellen Toussaint, seconded by Bill Murphy.

Gayle informed the Board that electronic subscription to and email blasts of COA's news will be offered within a month. Subscribers will be able to opt in for information on their particular areas of interest.

The Board proceeded to vote to transfer \$500.00 from the Gift Fund to the Hedwig Reynolds Fund (for financial assistance for heating and utilities) which has been depleted of its original \$5,000 set up of 2005. Bill Murphy motioned, Linda Cohen seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor.

A brief discussion followed on the merits of establishing a policy to cover review and approval of contractual obligations taken on by the COA. No decision was made at this time.

Linda Cohen motioned and Susan K. Lange seconded the approval of the Finance Report, which was unanimously accepted. On matters of Transportation, conversations will be continued on addressing reduced ridership of the COA bus and an analysis of whether improved integration of its service and that of volunteer drivers may be practical. It is felt that the matter will be better addressed once the new COA bus service is in place starting July 1st, should it be approved by Town Meeting. Quarterly reviews on the new bus service will be conducted. The Public Relations Committee is close to completing its mission statement. The Long Range Strategic Planning Committee expects to present mission and its section on Finance at the next Board meeting.

The Board was asked to review the 2012/2013 listing of members of its committees to make recommendations on updates and potential new members. Developments already in the public domain were mentioned regarding the Tolles-Parsons Center. The Board made anonymous contributions to its own "Board Fund" utilized to pay respects and recognize its former members and friends.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on February 24 at the Wellesley Community Center.

Presented by

Miguel Lessing, Secretary